

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 4890 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9801 Apollo Drive in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, as the Wayne K. Curry Post Office Building.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN) to tell us more about Mr. Curry.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from the Virgin Islands for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the committee for its consideration in support of H.R. 4890 as well as thank all the members of the Maryland delegation for their steadfast support.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4890, which designates the post office at 9801 Apollo Drive in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, in Maryland's Fourth Congressional District the Wayne K. Curry Post Office in honor of our late county executive.

Wayne Keith Curry was born in Brooklyn, New York, and grew up in a racially segregated neighborhood in Cheverly, Maryland. His family was among the first non-White families to integrate the community in the early 1950s. He and his older brother were the first African American students to integrate Cheverly Tuxedo Elementary School and then Bladensburg High School.

Wayne began his career in public service in the administration of Prince George's County Executive Winfield Kelly, Jr., from 1975 to 1978. Through his vision, devotion, and tireless work ethic to make a better Prince George's County, he quickly rose through the ranks of county government.

He went on to serve in various roles, including community affairs assistant, administrative assistant to the county's chief administrative officer, and senior assistant to the executive.

Mr. Curry commuted nightly to Baltimore, eventually graduating with honors from the University of Maryland Law School, receiving his juris doctorate in 1980.

From 1980 until 1983, Wayne worked as counsel for a large real estate development company in Prince George's County, and later decided to start his own law practice in 1984. During this time, he served as general counsel for Dimensions Health Corporation, among other high-profile clients.

Although he was a partner at a lucrative law firm, public service had a strong grasp on his heart. He served as chairman of the United Way Campaign of Prince George's County, president of the Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the School Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Black Male Achievement, and chairman of the Prince George's County Substance Abuse Advisory Board.

When the opportunity presented itself, he ran for Prince George's Coun-

ty executive in 1994. Running as the underdog, he ultimately prevailed. He made history when he became the first African American to serve in the county's highest elected office.

He brought a renewed vitality to the office and focused his administration on the economic empowerment of his constituents.

The transformation of Prince George's County reflected Wayne Curry's own life from a sleepy southern hollow that was rural and all White to a large African American majority and increasingly cosmopolitan.

County Executive Curry presided over a period of unprecedented population growth, development, and modernization of Prince George's County and making it the national standard of African American success in local governance. Under Wayne's leadership, Prince George's County became the first county in our history where education and income levels rose as it transitioned from majority White to majority African American.

His business-friendly approach led Prince George's County through a severe financial crisis, the end of court-mandated bussing, the construction of 26 new schools and a new stadium for the Washington Redskins.

He saw the county go from a deficit of \$108 million to enjoying a \$120 million surplus, protecting the county's AAA bond rating.

County Executive Wayne K. Curry passed away on July 2, 2014, at the age of 63 after losing his battle to lung cancer. He is survived by his wife, Sheila Curry; his son, Julian Curry; and daughter, Taylor Curry.

Wayne Curry never sought to make history, but simply to serve the community and the people and to better their lives. He was always about the future and getting it right.

Wayne K. Curry will live on through his historical impact on the people that I represent, and this bill will honor the vision, contribution, and legacy of the iconic Wayne K. Curry and will be a daily remainder in the heart of the county he cared so deeply about.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time.

I urge passage of H.R. 4890, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4890, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9801 Apollo Drive in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, as the "Wayne K. Curry Post Office Building." I thank my colleague from Maryland, Congressman ANTHONY BROWN, for his leadership in introducing this bill, which I am proud to co-sponsor.

Wayne Curry was an exceptional leader whose vision and commitment led to many of the groundbreaking developments that have helped make Prince George's County such a vibrant and dynamic county today. He was also a trailblazer committed to opening the doors of opportunity for African Americans in business and government.

Mr. Curry was a graduate of Western Maryland College and of the University of Maryland Law School in Baltimore. He worked for many years in commercial real estate and then eventually led the Prince George's Chamber of Commerce. Early in his career, he served as an aide to former County Executive Winfield M. Kelly.

Mr. Curry was elected the County Executive of Prince George's County in 1994—one of the first African Americans to be elected to lead a county in the nation—and was re-elected in 1998. As County Executive, he was a fierce advocate for Prince George's County and for its residents, and fought to increase funding for public schools, to ensure that economic development in the county benefited all residents, and to ensure that minority contractors had a fair chance to compete for government-funded contracts.

The Washington Post wrote that Mr. Curry was "A champion of black affluence" who "believed that economic power was the last milestone of the civil rights struggle."

We are blessed to have the memory and example of Wayne Curry to help lead us as we continue to fight to reach that last milestone and achieve the equality of economic opportunity that is essential to making the American dream a reality for minorities across this nation.

I urge all Members to support H.R. 4890 and again thank Congressman BROWN for his work on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4890.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MAJOR ROBERT ODELL OWENS POST OFFICE

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5238) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1234 Saint Johns Place in Brooklyn, New York, as the "Major Robert Odell Owens Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5238

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MAJOR ROBERT ODELL OWENS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1234 Saint Johns Place in Brooklyn, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Major Robert Odell Owens Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Major Robert Odell Owens Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands

(Ms. PLASKETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5238, a bill to name the post office at 1234 Saint Johns Place in Brooklyn, New York, after Major Robert Odell Owens.

Major Owens led a life of public service, beginning as a librarian at the Brooklyn Public Library. At around the same time, Owens became a member of the Brooklyn chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality, where he worked to fight racism and discrimination in New York City.

From 1975 to 1982, Owens served as New York State senator. In 1982, Owens won election to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he went on to serve 24 years as a representative to the citizens of New York City.

In Congress, Owens fought passionately for many causes, including education policy. He was active in the Congressional Black Caucus Education Brain Trust, promoting reading, science, and math education.

This bill would honor Congressman Owens' service by naming a post office in Brooklyn in his name.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1530

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 5238, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1234 Saint Johns Place in Brooklyn, New York, as the Major Robert Odell Owens Post Office.

This is particularly important to me, as Congressman Owens was my Congressman as a child growing up, and Saint Johns Place was the street on which my mother lived when she came from the Virgin Islands to live in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE), and from that great place called Brooklyn, to tell us more about Congressman Owens.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the U.S. Virgin Islands and quasi-Brooklynite for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues' support for H.R. 5238, the Major Robert Odell Owens Post Office designation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a former colleague, a groundbreaking legislator, who is credited and lauded for being a forerunner of the progressive political movement in Brooklyn, New York, my predecessor, the Honorable Major Robert Odell Owens.

Congressman Owens served in this body from 1983 to 2007, and he served in both Brooklyn's 12th and 11th Congressional Districts of New York. Congressman Owens still brings to memory for many the fond recollections of his groundbreaking legislative accomplishments as a senior, longstanding member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, and a member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. Owens spent 8 years in the New York State Senate before he was elected to serve in Brooklyn, New York's 12th Congressional District, a seat previously held by the Honorable Shirley Chisholm, his predecessor.

Mr. Owens then went on to serve his community for over two decades. Through his committee work and work with the Congressional Black Caucus' Education Brain Trust, Major Owens became known as the Education Congressman, but he was also deemed with another moniker, the Rapping Rep, due to his ability to intertwine his political perspective into rhythmic poetry.

Mr. Owens will always be remembered for the legislative victories he achieved on the Hill, and his spectacular fight, particularly for the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, for which he is credited with its passage.

His accomplishments in Congress are vast, and many are stemmed from his lifelong passion for education, community development, and equality. Mr. Owens' passion for education began during his career in librarianship where he served as the community information librarian at the Brooklyn Public Library for a decade.

His friends and fellow activists in the Brooklyn community note that Mr. Owens was known to place collections from the Brooklyn Public Library in local stores, restaurants, laundromats, and more because his passion lay with sharing knowledge and resources to those who may not have immediate access to it.

Mr. Owens was one of the founders of the New York Social Responsibilities Roundtable which was an organization that is now a part of the New York Library Association. Their mission is to create a central position for libraries and librarians in the battle for civil rights, social justice, peace, and ever-improved public access to education and information.

Congressman Owens' dynamic passions for public education, information sharing, equality, and civil rights became driving forces for him to run for Congress as a former head of the Congress of Racial Equality.

His legacy in Brooklyn led him to become a continued featured speaker at the White House Conference on Library

and Information Services, as well as a recipient of the American Library Association's highest honor: honorary membership.

Fittingly nicknamed the Librarian in Congress, Mr. Owens was dedicated to helping communities of color receive access to information resources through local public libraries.

Mr. Owens was a pillar within the United States Congress as an advocate for Americans with disabilities, social justice reform, library funding, education reform, as well as development in public schools and libraries to ensure that underserved communities did not lack access to information and education resources.

As a young public servant myself, I was inspired by Mr. Owens' work with the disabilities activists who often visited his office and eventually provided testimony before Mr. Owens' House Subcommittee on Select Education where he fought to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act, the ADA.

Today, Brooklynites benefit from public library resource initiatives because of his advocacy for funding. The ADA still stands as a law to prevent discrimination against Americans with disabilities, as it guarantees to create equal opportunity for the special needs community.

To this day, my colleagues and I work to protect this law at all costs, thanks to Congressman Owens' dedication to ensure that this law was enacted. I am so proud to be his successor.

H.R. 5238 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1234 Saint Johns Place in Brooklyn, New York, the Major Robert Odell Owens Post Office.

Congressman Owens will always be remembered in the district that he represented, and I am extremely pleased that the House will consider this bill in honor of his rich legacy and contributions to our great Chamber.

As I continue the distinct honor of representing the Ninth Congressional District of New York, I look forward to commemorating the life, memory, and integrity of our former House colleague, Congressman Major Robert Odell Owens, my trailblazing predecessor.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me the time.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge passage of H.R. 5238, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5238.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STANLEY MICHELS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2692) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4558 Broadway in New York, New York, as the “Stanley Michels Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2692

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. STANLEY MICHELS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4558 Broadway in New York, New York, shall be known and designated as the “Stanley Michels Post Office Building”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Stanley Michels Post Office Building”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2692, a bill to name the post office at 4558 Broadway in New York, New York, after Stanley E. Michels.

Stanley Michels was a lawyer and politician from Washington Heights who was a New York councilman from 1978 to 2001. He was active in environmental protection and public health, having sponsored New York City’s first law regulating smoking in public places.

Michels also sponsored one of the first city laws to prevent childhood lead poisoning, and he played a significant role in expanding the city’s recycling program. Stanley Michels was a dedicated public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of S. 2692, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4558 Broadway in New York as the Stanley Michels Post Office Building.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr.

ESPAILLAT), to tell us more about Stanley E. Michels.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman STACEY PLASKETT for yielding me time as well as Ranking Member ELLIJAH CUMMINGS and TREY GOWDY for their support in bringing this bill to the floor.

I have a special acknowledgement and thank you to Senator KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND, who introduced the Senate version of my bill which is before us today. I rise in strong support of S. 2692, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4558 Broadway in Manhattan as the Stanley Michels Post Office Building.

Stanley Michels was a great public servant. He was a loving family man and he was from my neighborhood of Washington Heights. He served on the New York City Council from 1978 to 2001, representing Council District 6, and always did so with distinction and with integrity.

As the chairman of the New York City Council’s Committee on Environmental Protection from 1992 through 2001, Stanley was best known for his activism on environmental issues, particularly water quality, and also he was a strong advocate of tenants’ rights.

He was a very strong supporter of New York City parks. They called him the King of the Parks in New York City and he injected millions of dollars into the park system across the City of New York, but, particularly, in northern Manhattan: Fort Tryon Park, Inwood Hill Park, Highbridge Park, Bennett Park, and Isham Park. All of these parks in the long, narrow neck of northern Manhattan received tremendous funding from Stanley Michels.

In many ways, Stanley was ahead of his time. In 1987, he was a prime sponsor of the Clean Indoor Air Act, which was New York City’s first law regulating smoking in public places. He was also the visionary behind the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act of 1982, legislation that is still relevant today in New York City and New York State.

He played a significant role in expanding the city’s recycling program and in advocating for a memorandum of understanding among the city, the State, and upstate communities to protect the city’s watershed in the Catskill Mountains.

After years of public service and a long fight against cancer, Stanley passed away in 2008, but his legacy will not be forgotten. It is my honor to see a post office named in his honor.

Stanley Michels and his family poured their hearts into making New York City a better place for all of us to live in. This included: his wife, Molly Michels; his sister, Ellen Grant; his son, Jeffrey; and his two daughters, Karen and Shari Michels—who is now a New York City civil court judge—and three grandchildren.

Stanley Michels left a tremendous legacy and he made a difference. Nam-

ing this post office after Stanley Michels is a fitting tribute to honor his memory and all of his contributions to New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have sponsored this bill, and I look forward to celebrating Stanley Michels’ legacy next month.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time. I urge passage of S. 2692, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2692.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CORPORAL JEFFERY ALLEN WILLIAMS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4407) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3s101 Rockwell Street in Warrenville, Illinois, as the “Corporal Jeffery Allen Williams Post Office Building.”

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4407

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CORPORAL JEFFERY ALLEN WILLIAMS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3s101 Rockwell Street in Warrenville, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the “Corporal Jeffery Allen Williams Post Office Building”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Corporal Jeffery Allen Williams Post Office Building”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

□ 1545

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.